

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A data-centric hazard communication apparatus comprising:
- a) an authoring module for identification of hazardous material and its characteristics, the authoring module further comprising:
    - an automated means for selectively decompiling said hazardous material, ~~and~~ determining its components and decomposition products and their respective characteristics;
    - an automated means for associating said hazardous material and said component characteristics with hazard information, using a user defined set of hazardous material rules;
    - and a means for recompiling said hazardous material and said components associated with hazard information to provide hazard information about the hazardous material, its components, decomposition products of said hazardous material, and substances related to said hazardous material; and
  - b) a means for disseminating hazard information about said hazardous material, its components, decomposition products of the material, and substances related to the hazardous material wherein said means for disseminating hazard information communicates with said authoring module.

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2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for decompiling said hazardous material comprises a deblending analyzer.

3. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said means for decompiling hazardous material further comprises a substance processor.

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for recompiling hazardous material and said components associated with hazard information is a rules engine for generating words and phrases used in the production of documents and system output.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for disseminating hazard information is a distribution module.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for disseminating hazard information is an on-line module.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim wherein said means for disseminating hazard information is a labeling module.

Claims 8 – 13 Cancelled

9 14. (Currently Amended) A data-centric hazard communication system comprising:

a) an authoring module for entering information about a hazardous material and its characteristics;

b) a module for selectively decompiling said hazardous material into its components and decomposition products and their respective characteristics;

c) a rules engine operating on a set of user-defined rules for automatically associating said hazardous material characteristics and its component characteristics with user-defined hazard information for use in the production of documents and system output to provide hazard information about said hazardous material, its components, and substances related to said hazardous material; and

d) a module for disseminating said hazard information about said hazardous material, its components, and substances related to said hazardous material wherein said module communicates with said authoring module.

Claims 15 – 17 Cancelled.

10 18. (Previously Added) The system of claim 14, wherein the module for decompiling the hazardous material includes an automated deblending module.

11 19. (Previously Added) The system of claim 18, wherein the module for decompiling the hazardous material further includes a substance processor.

12 20. (Previously Added) The system of claim 14, wherein the rules engine for associating said hazardous material characteristics and its component characteristics with user-defined hazard information further includes a user-defined set of hazardous material rules related to hazardous material and component characteristics.

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21. (Previously Added) The system of claim 14, wherein said hazard material rules may relate at least one regulatory, transportation, storage, handling, exposure, or emergency requirements for said hazardous material and its components.

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22. (Previously Added) The system of claim 14, wherein said user-defined hazardous material information is comprised of user-defined words and phrases.

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23. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user defined set of hazardous material rules may relate to transportation, storage, regulatory, exposure or emergency requirements for said hazardous material and its components.

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24. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating hazard information, the steps comprising:

(a) entering information related to a hazardous material and its characteristics into a computerized database;

(b) selectively automatically decompiling said hazardous material into its components, and decomposition products and ~~determining the~~ their respective characteristics ~~for said components;~~

(c) automatically associating said hazardous material and component characteristics with hazard information using a set of user defined hazardous material rules;

(d) recompiling said hazardous material information associated with said hazardous material and its components; and

(e) disseminating said hazardous material information related to said hazardous material and its components.

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25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein step (b) further includes utilizing an automated deblender for decompiling said hazardous material.

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26. (Previously Added) The method of claim 25, wherein said automated deblender further includes a substance processor.

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27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein said hazardous material rules includes rules relating at least one of regulatory, transportation, storage, handling, exposure or emergency requirements for said hazardous material and its components.

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28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein step (e) further includes the step of automatically disseminating said hazard information online.

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29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein step (e) further includes the step of creating hazardous material labels.

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30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein said hazardous material and its components characteristics are referenced by a rules engine operating on user-defined rules to associate hazard information from a user-defined database of information with said hazardous material and its components.

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31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 wherein said hazard information is comprised of a user defined set of words and phrases.

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